

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE STATE FORESTER TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A NEW
3 MEXICO FOREST HEALTH PLAN THAT EMULATES THE BEST MANAGEMENT
4 PRACTICES CURRENTLY IN USE ON THE MESCALERO APACHE INDIAN
5 RESERVATION.

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7 WHEREAS, New Mexico's forests are in an unhealthy state
8 due to an overdensity of wildfire fuels, including invasive
9 species and noxious weeds, resulting from years of aggressive
10 fire prevention and having removed fire from the natural
11 scheme of nature; and

12 WHEREAS, the drought conditions that the state has
13 experienced over the last several years have exacerbated this
14 unhealthy condition; and

15 WHEREAS, as a result of the overdensity of wildfire fuel
16 and the anticipated long-lasting drought situation,
17 biodiversity within the state's ecosystems continues to
18 decrease and conditions for continued insect outbreaks remain
19 likely, thus adding to the possibility of catastrophic
20 wildfires occurring within the state; and

21 WHEREAS, catastrophic fires present a threat to the
22 lives and property of New Mexico residents; and

23 WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfires could have devastating
24 impacts on the state's critical watersheds and negative
25 impacts on domestic water supply for New Mexico residents;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, the magnitude of the forest health problem is
3 in terms of millions of acres and involves different
4 jurisdictional boundaries and authorities; and

5 WHEREAS, the cost to remedy and maintain sound forest
6 ecosystems within the state will be tremendous and all
7 available land management resources must be used both
8 efficiently and effectively; and

9 WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe's forest management
10 operations, working in concert with the bureau of Indian
11 affairs, Mescalero agency, have become nationally known for
12 the effective and efficient way in which they have addressed
13 many of the forest health issues mentioned within;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the forestry division of the energy,
16 minerals and natural resources department be requested to
17 facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide
18 forest health plan that will effectively bring together the
19 resources of federal agencies, tribal, state and local
20 governments and private landowners to address the issues
21 described herein; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the anticipated completion
23 date for the New Mexico forest health plan being October
24 2004, that the state forester send the plan to the New Mexico
25 legislature by December 2004; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
3 resources, the state forester, the New Mexico congressional
4 delegation and the chief of the United States forest service.=_

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